

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

IN MEMORY OF DONNA FREEMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative Mike THOMPSON, to honor the memory of Donna Cook Freeman of Bodega Bay in my district, an energetic community activist from whose petite frame exuded a feisty kind of determination combined with warmth and humor that earned friends, political power and a long list of accomplishments.

Donna came to Bodega Bay a half-century ago as a young, poor and pregnant fisherman's wife with two small children in tow. She left Bodega Bay and this earthly plane on October 30, 2009 after two weeks of farewell visits from at least 150 friends. She was 72.

Donna Cook Freeman became involved in local politics in the early '60s in one of the earliest environmental battles of the modern era, the fight over the planned construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. Donna and several other "ordinary" townspeople and their friends took on the giant utility, and ultimately won after they exposed the danger of building the plant directly on the San Andreas Fault.

Remaining active in coastal issues, she served on the California Coastal Commission's advisory board for the county's coastal plan. She campaigned for a local assessment to provide paramedics for the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District. Later she served three terms as a director of the Fire District. She was also a founder of the Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, and served as president and a director of the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce, and for a decade served on the board of the Sonoma County Fair. She successfully fought for new port facilities for commercial and recreational fishermen that became Spud Point Marina.

She also created a special place in a scrub filled ravine at the foot of Bodega Head. She filled it with cool ferns, waving trees, rippling ponds, narrow foot bridges and a gazebo she salvaged from the set of Alfred Hitchcock's Bodega Bay-based classic film, "The Birds." This sheltered refuge she called "Compass Rose Garden," named both for the center of a compass and her mother. She raised her family in a cottage in the garden, and turned its verdant grounds into a place for weddings, family events, community celebrations, and political fundraisers that both advertised and expanded her political influence.

She served on the Democratic State Central Committee, and her endorsement was gold to numerous political candidates courting west Sonoma County votes. She served a vital role in ushering in progressive politics to the county when she successfully managed the campaign of former Sonoma County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter.

Last month she was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer and as her life ebbed away she made plans for a final celebration at Compass Rose Garden. It was not to be. Yet she leaves a legacy of progress, a legion of friends, and a loving family that includes her husband, Clarence Freeman, her two daughters Melinda McLees and Melissa Freeman; three sons, Scott Freeman, Kevin Freeman, and Steve Freeman; and their families, which include seven grandchildren; as well as her brother James Cook and a sister Dorothy Cook Hewett, and their families.

Madam Speaker, Donna Cook Freeman brought creativity, vibrancy and determination to every endeavor she took on. She led by her powers of persuasion and her personal magnetism. She was born in the Depression but was guided through her life by her joyous sense of possibility. When the boats are blessed at the next Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, we will think of her, and recall a spirit that could rise above the waves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was unable to be in the chamber for two Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 969, H. Res. 776, a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of National Runaway Prevention Month and "yea" on rollcall No. 970, H. Res. 942, a resolution commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on December 14, 2009. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 969 and "yes" on rollcall No. 970.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall votes 969 and 970 and voice votes on December 14, 2009 due to a pre-existing medical appointment. I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 969 I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 970 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on S. 303 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on H.R. 4284 I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, December 14, 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 969 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 779), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 970 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 942).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 10, 2009, I missed rollcall No. 950. If present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MR. ARNOLD MINICUCCI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Arnold Minicucci of Watertown, Connecticut.

For the last 59 years, Arnold Minicucci has been the proud owner and manager of Minicucci's Incorporated, a menswear clothier and downtown mainstay in Waterbury, Connecticut. This coming January, he will retire and close the store he took over from his father more than a half-century ago, ending one of Waterbury's most beloved and long-tenured businesses.

After returning from service during World War I, Arnold's father founded Minicucci's in Waterbury in 1919 as a maker of custom men's suits. Upon his return from service in the Navy during World War II, Arnold joined his father's business in 1946 and became full owner of the store four years later, transitioning the establishment into a retail suit seller. Soon thereafter, Arnold moved the store from East Main Street to its present location at 52 Bank Street. Throughout its history, Minicucci's has served mayors and governors alike, with loyal customers whose relationship with the store can be measured in decades.

Anyone who's spent any time living or working in Waterbury knows Arnold and his beloved wife, Mary, both of whom were born and married in the Brass City. They are true pillars of the community: former chairs of the Cancer Ball, long-serving members of the Immaculate Conception Church and the Exchange Club, and a driving force behind the construction of the Little League Stadium, to name but a few of their strong ties to Waterbury.

Every one of Arnold's hundreds of friends and loyal customers who attend his retirement